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Raptors Take Over Carson Valley December through February



CARSON VALLEY (Nov. 16, 2018) – Nature calls with the sounds of raptors descending on Carson Valley, Nevada each January to February. This natural phenomenon is celebrated by this rural farming community, located about 45 minutes south of Reno, with bald and golden eagles and many others attracted to the region by the calf birthing season where the afterbirth provides the high protein nutrients the birds of prey require. Dubbed **Eagles & Agriculture**, it's a real-life education on the role ranching plays in providing habitat for wildlife.

There are **three opportunities** to experience Carson Valley and to see the magnificent birds of prey in action:

Eagles & Agriculture Event, Jan 24 – 27

Now in its 17th season, the Eagles & Agriculture organized event includes tours of ranches accompanied by expert birders and historians, the popular owl prowl, a wildlife photography class with professional photographer [JT Humphrey](#) and the Falconers Dinner where guests can get close to a variety of raptors. For complete details, tour and class reservations, please visit [online](#) or call the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce at 775-782-8144.

Wildlife Viewing and Tours, December through February

Nature-lovers, photographers and birders alike will find an abundance of wildlife in Carson Valley during the winter months. While the calving season draws raptors, waterfowl can also be viewed. Look closely and a Lynx may be spotted. Wild horses are easily observed throughout the region. Carson Valley is home to preserves, a migratory birding route and parks that provide key habitat settings for robust and diverse wildlife populations. Explore on your own at the various locations or schedule a customized tour with an expert guide. Visit [online](#) for tour information.

Self-Guided Exploration

While professionals add a degree of success, many visitors explore our community on their own finding a place along many of our ranches with binoculars and high-powered camera lenses to capture the raptors in action.

Viewing areas include:

River Fork Ranch: River Fork Ranch is an 800-acre preserve owned and operated by the Nature Conservancy. Located where the east and west forks of the Carson River converge near Genoa, River Fork Ranch is both a nature preserve and a working cattle operation. The ranch's riparian corridor and patchwork of pastures, meadows and wetlands support a robust and diverse wildlife population including bald eagles, sandhill cranes, Leopard frogs, monarch butterflies and mule deer. For more information, visit [online](#).

Lahontan Audubon Society Area #3: With its mix of pasture-grasslands and riparian wetlands, the western side of the Carson Valley, including the Carson River corridor, is recognized as an [Audubon Important Bird Area](#). The Carson Valley area is home to wintering raptors include bald and golden eagles, rough-legged and ferruginous hawks and prairie Falcons. Red-tailed hawks, northern harrier and American kestrel are residents. White-faced ibis and a modest number of sandhill cranes may be observed. A colony of tricolored blackbirds breed in the Carson Valley, the only known occurrence in Nevada. For more information on this Audubon birding area, visit [online](#).

Topaz Lake Park: This park occupies 90 acres on the shores of Topaz Lake, a reservoir on the Nevada-California border about 20 miles south of Gardnerville. The park is a well-kept secret among birdwatchers and small birds sighted at the park include orioles, swallows, red-winged blackbirds and yellow warblers. A pair of bald eagles nest nearby, while ospreys and pelicans are frequently seen. During the migration season, the park's location on the Pacific flyway makes it an especially good bird-watching spot.

Carson Valley is less than 45 miles from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, 30 minutes from Lake Tahoe and 20 minutes from Carson City. The region boasts plenty of accommodation choices, from hotels to motels and casinos to spa resorts. For more on where to stay, visit [online](#).

For more information, visit online at VisitCarsonValley.org.

About Carson Valley:

Nestled at the base of the Sierra, Carson Valley begs visitors to not just drive through it, but to it. Located 45 miles south of Reno-Tahoe International Airport and 12 miles east of South Lake Tahoe, the region's natural beauty is legendary: wide-open farms, ranches, bands of wild horses and birds of prey dot the landscape. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts follow all points of the compass with more than 50+ miles of hiking, mountain biking or walking trails along with world class road biking. The valley's museums, arts, antiquing, Basque dining, historic watering holes and more add to the destination's authentic culture. The region includes the communities of Minden, Gardnerville, Topaz Lake and Genoa, Nevada's first settlement dating back to 1851. Explore the land of everyday legends at VisitCarsonValley.org.

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MEDIA PHOTOS: 2017 Eagle & Agriculture Photos: <https://radstrategies.box.com/v/EaglesAg2018>